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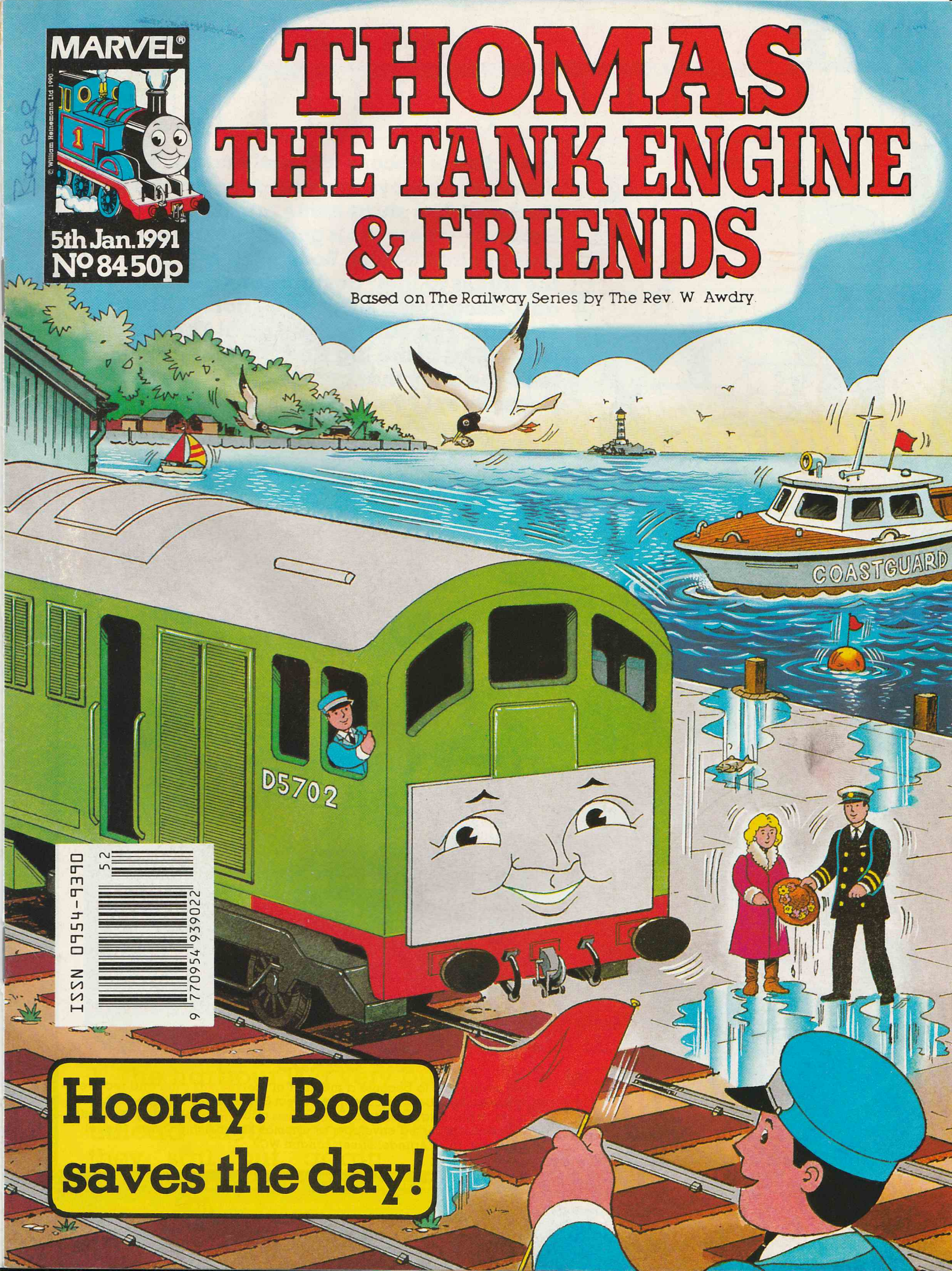
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry



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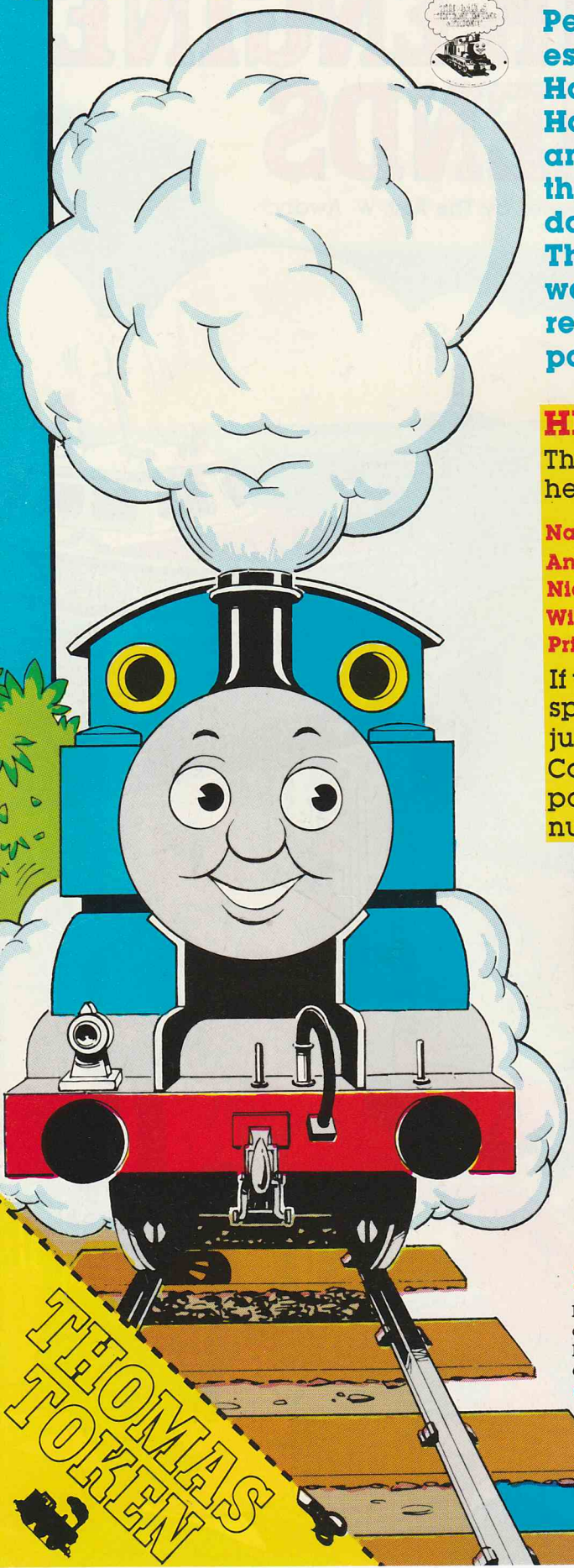
Hooray! Boco saves the day!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



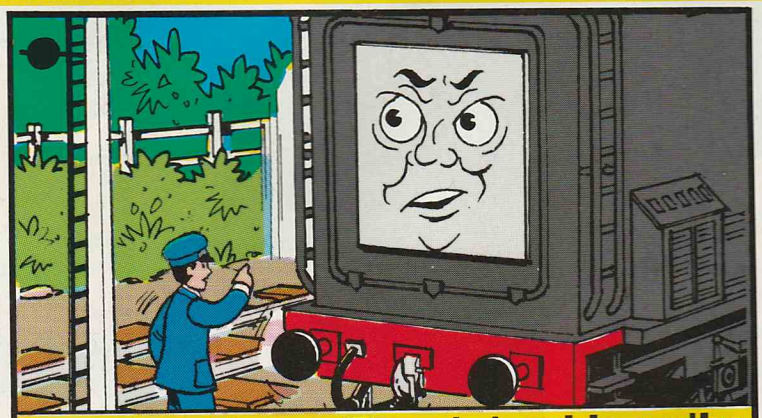
Peep! Peep! Boco is a diesel engine. He especially enjoys working down by the Big Harbour! The ships come into the Big Harbour, where their goods are unloaded and put into trucks. Boco's job is to take the trucks to their destinations! But one day, Boco had a surprise visitor . . . it was Thomas! You can find out what Thomas was doing at the Big Harbour when you read the story that begins on the next page! Peep! Peep!

HELLO THERE!

The Fat Controller would like to say a very special hello to the following readers. . .

Natalie Marie Storry (19246), aged 6, **Andrew Liddle**, aged 5, **Daniel Cole, Nicholas Gould (3953), Maria Williamson**, aged 4 and **Jonathon Priday (142215).**

If you would like to receive a special mention on this page, just send your details to the Fat Controller at the address shown on the letters page. Don't forget to include your membership number too!



In our next issue: There's trouble on the line for Diesel!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one at the bottom of this page! Send one **red, yellow** and **green** token together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

THOMAS TOKEN

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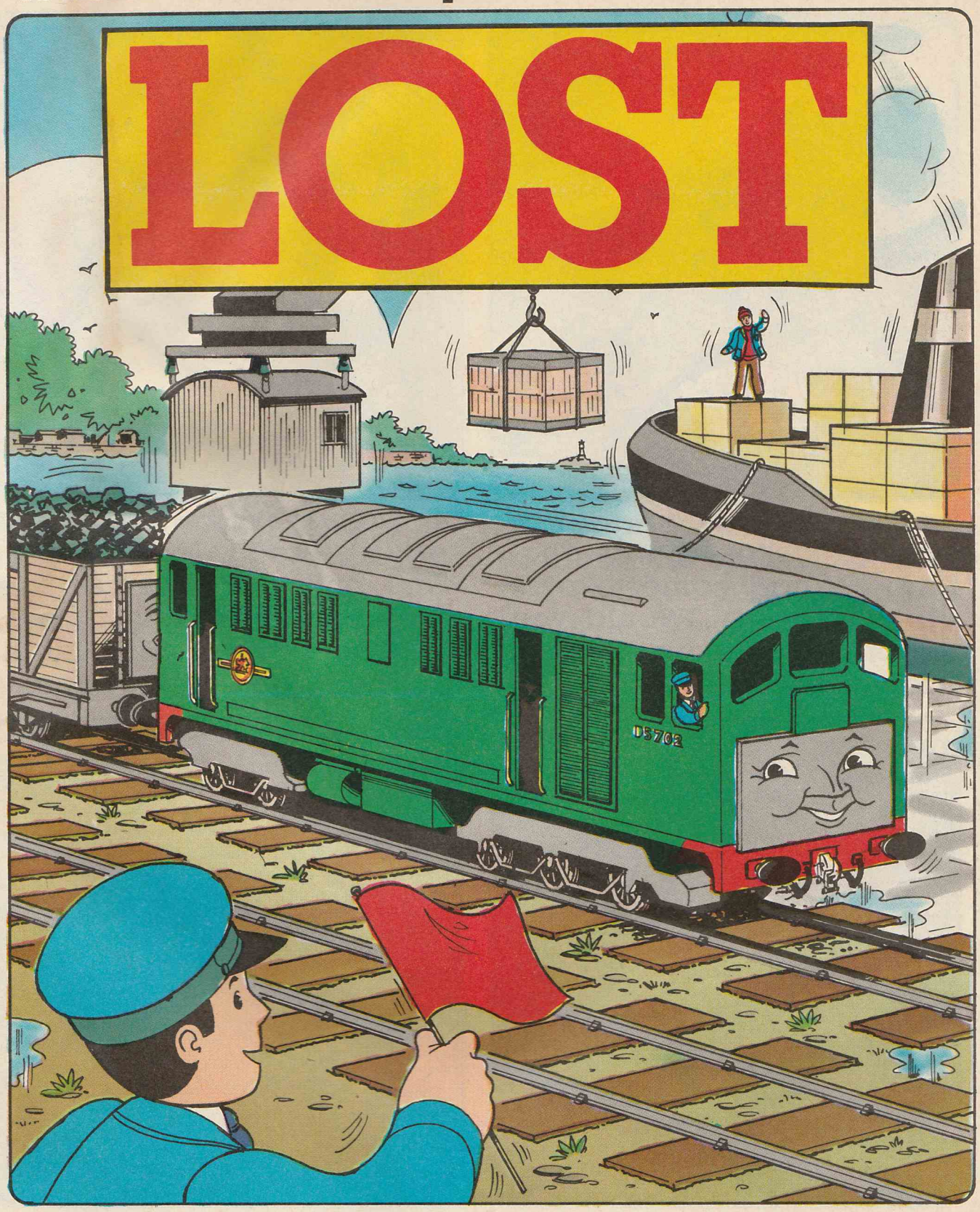
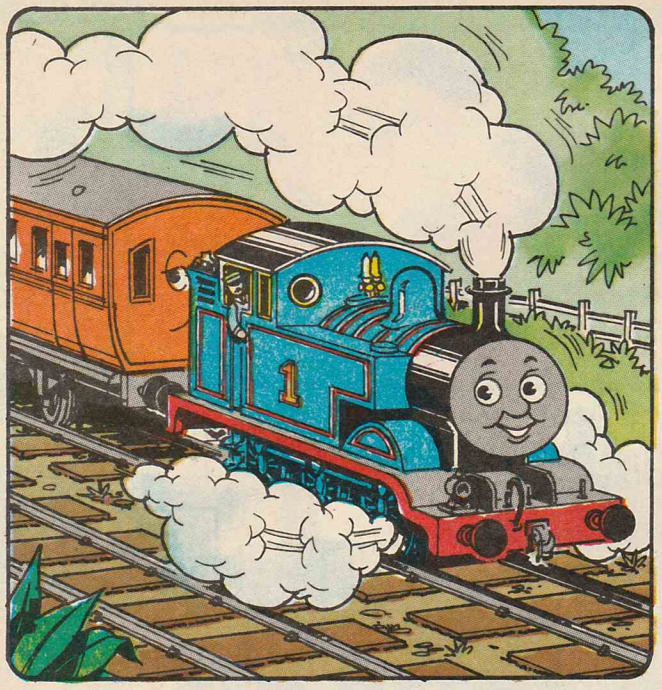
A listen and look story!

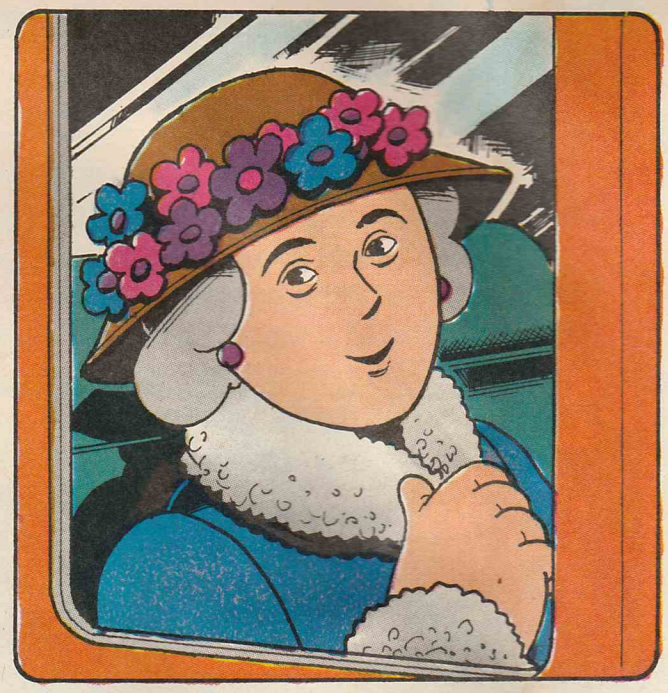


1. The harbour is a very busy place. Ships come in to unload their goods. Then they sail out again. The goods are loaded into trucks.

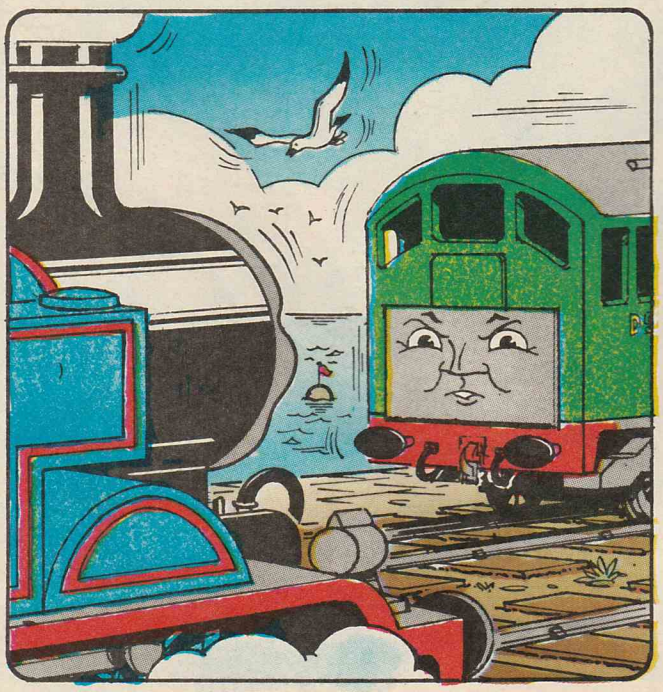
2. It is Boco's job to pull the trucks to their destination. Boco is a diesel engine. He loves working down at the harbour. He is always very busy.



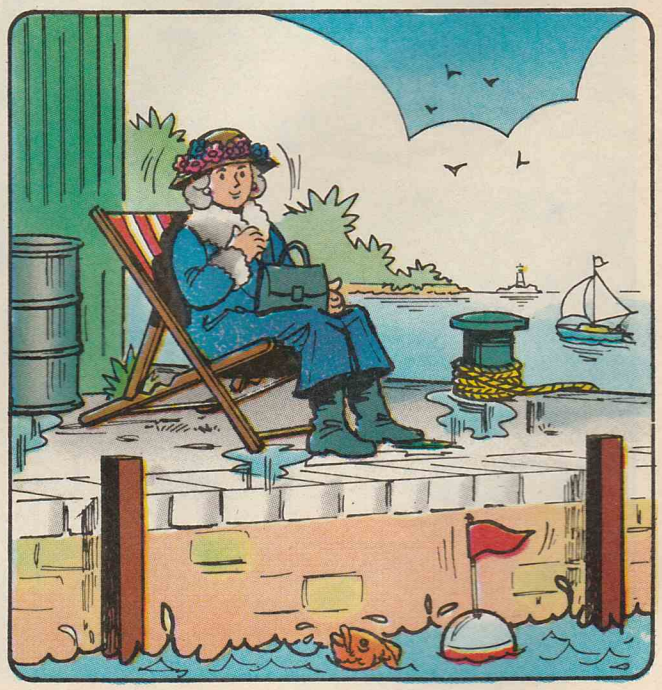
3. One day, Boco had a surprise visitor. It was Thomas. He had come to pick up passengers. "Would you do me a favour, Boco?" Thomas asked.



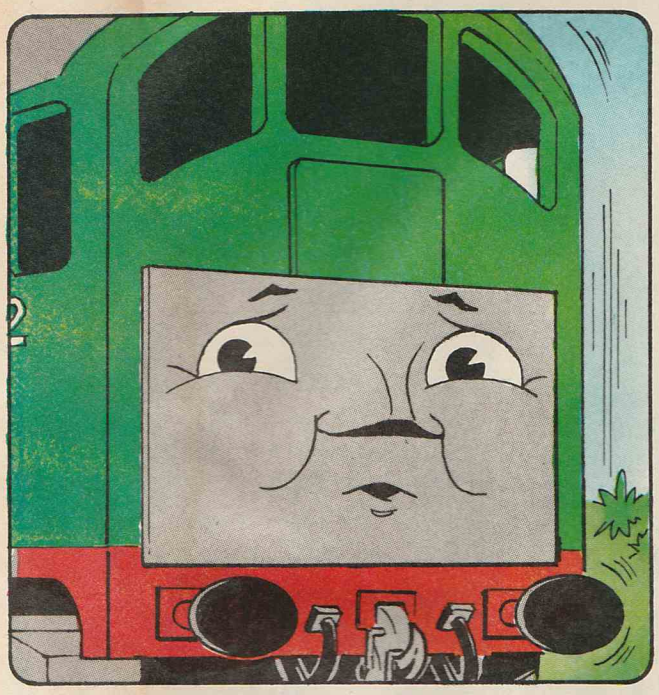
4. Thomas explained that his driver's friend, Mrs Kyndley, was on board Annie. She was recovering from a cold. "We thought sea air would do her good," said Thomas.



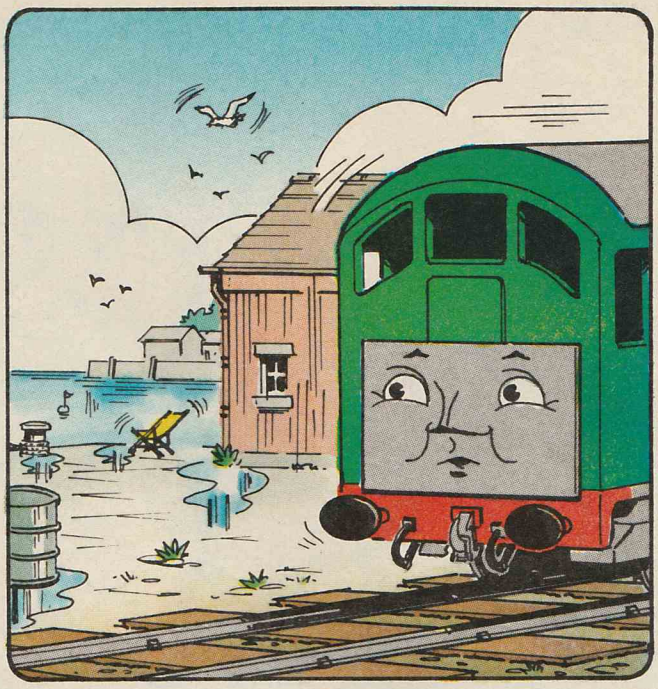
5. "Would you look after her until we get back, Boco?" asked Thomas. Boco wasn't happy about this. "I'm busy!" he complained. But Thomas wouldn't listen.



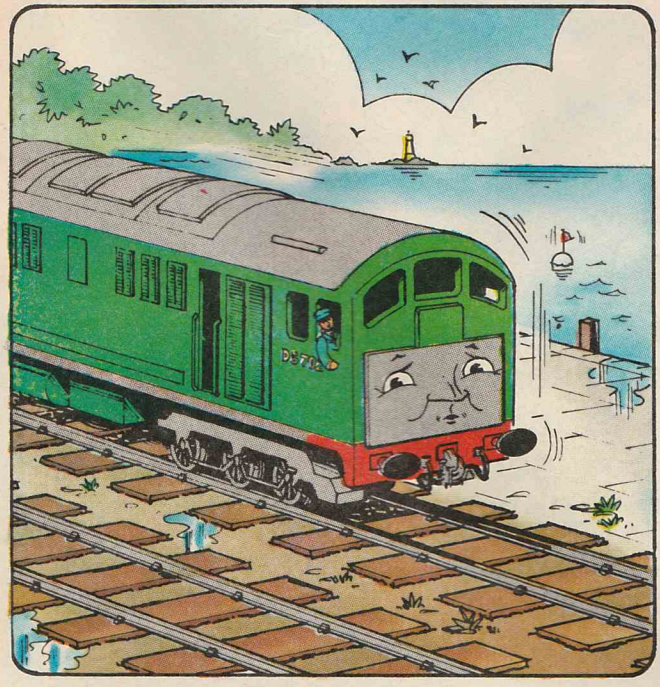
6. Thomas's guard helped Mrs Kyndley off the train. She sat in a deckchair on the harbour wall. With a cheery "Peep! Peep!" Thomas went to collect more passengers.



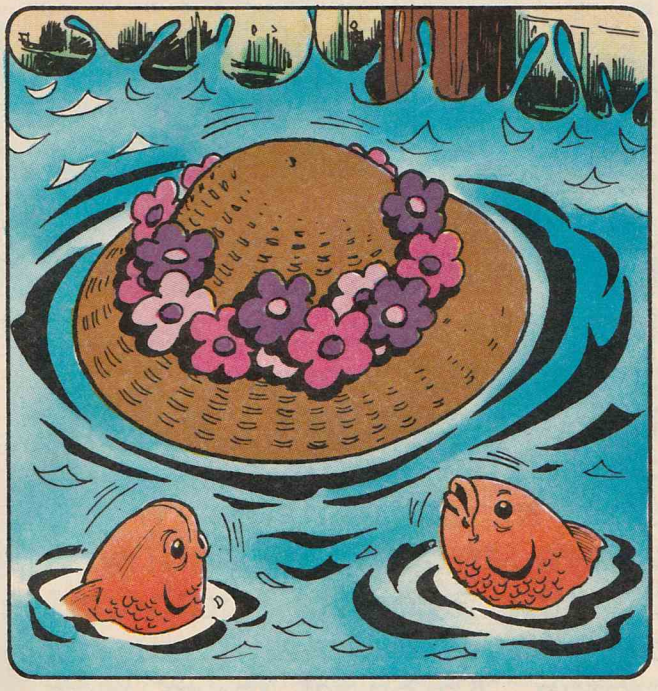
7. "Mrs Kyndley will have to look after herself," said Boco crossly. "I have trucks to move. I'm a very busy engine with work to do!" He went off to find more trucks.



8. Boco worked hard all morning. He completely forgot about Mrs Kyndley. When he passed the harbour wall, he was surprised to see the deckchair was empty.



9. "Goodness me! She's gone!" cried Boco. "We must find her!" Boco's driver took him all over the harbour, but Mrs Kyndley was nowhere in sight.



10. "I've lost her!" groaned Boco. "Whatever will Thomas say!" Then Boco saw Mrs Kyndley's hat in the water. "Oh, no! Mrs Kyndley must have fallen in!" he cried.

11. "Help! Help! Call out the coastguard!" shouted Boco. The coastguard quickly arrived. A small boat was sent to search the water where Mrs Kyndley's hat was floating. People gathered on the harbour wall to watch. Amongst them was Mrs Kyndley! "What's all the excitement about?" she asked Boco's driver.

12. Boco's driver was most relieved to find Mrs Kyndley. "I thought you had fallen in the sea!" he said. Mrs Kyndley laughed. "My hat blew off, so I went to find the harbourmaster to see if he could rescue it," she said. Boco felt silly for calling out the coastguard, but no one minded. And Mrs Kyndley did get her hat back!

THE END

Another story begins on page 17!

JAMES'S JAPES

Have you got a favourite joke? James would love to hear it. Send it to him at the address on the letters page!

What's a frog's favourite sweet?
A lollihop!
Simon, aged 5

What did the traffic warden have in his sandwiches?
Traffic jam!
Larry, aged 4.

What's the best year for kangaroos?
A leap year!
Terry, aged 6.

What vegetable needs a plumber?
A leek!
Michael, aged 4.

What dance do tin-openers do?
The Can-Can!
Maria, aged 4.

How do you start a flea race?
One, two, flea. . .go!
Edward, aged 5.

What's a mouse's favourite game?
Hide and squeak!
Andrew, aged 4.

What's a karate expert's favourite meal?
Chops!
Nadine, aged 5.

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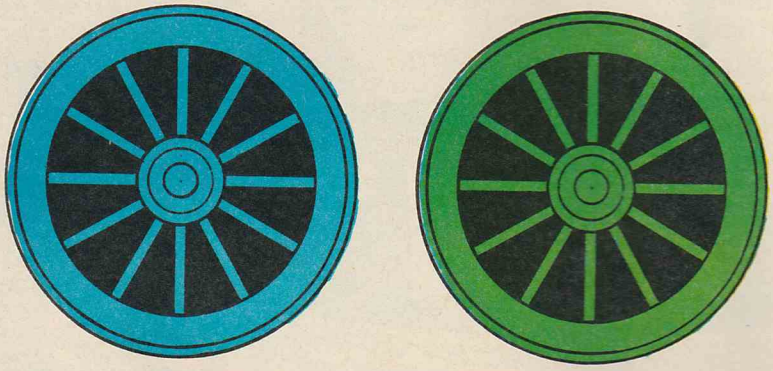
Signature ..... *Date* .....

Please return form and payment to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Poster Magazine Offer, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

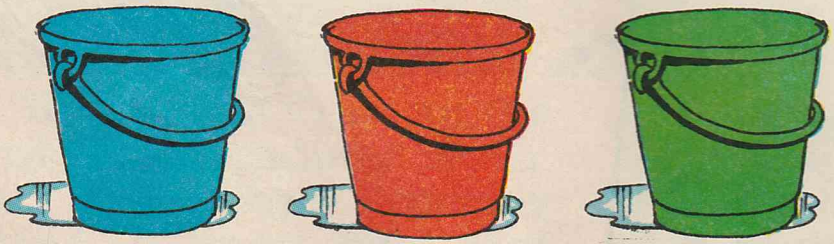
PUZZLE TIME

Here is a splendid counting game for you! Take a look below at just some of the objects that Thomas often sees on his journey down the branch line! Then carefully count each section of objects and place your answers in the boxes provided!

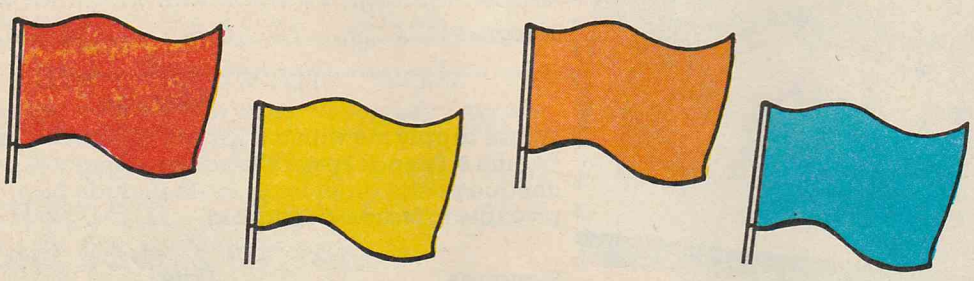


wheels

paint pots

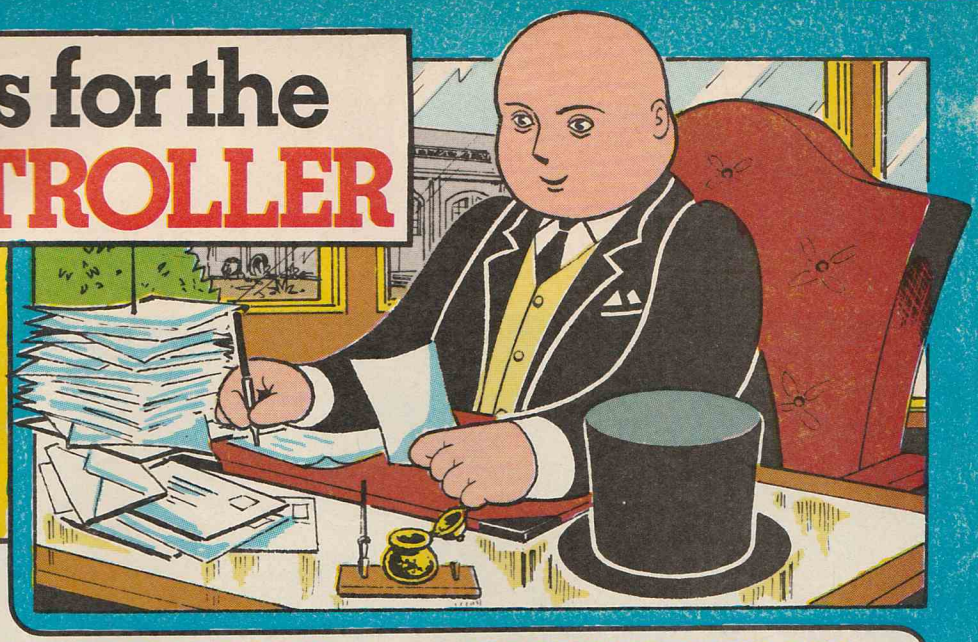


buckets



flags

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Last year, my daddy and I met Father Christmas on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch railway. Daddy had mince pies while Father Christmas gave me a present. We went again this Christmas, only this time Mummy and my new baby brother Peter went too!

Love from **Madeline**, aged 3.

Upon my soul! *What an exciting day that must have been! I'm sure Father Christmas must have been delighted to meet your new baby brother!*

★★★★★★★★★★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank lunchbox and flask** – from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

MY FAVOURITE!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite story was when Bertie helped some passengers catch up with Edward. It was very exciting and Bertie became a hero!

Love from **David**, aged 5.

Yes, indeed! That time Bertie showed that he was a very helpful and loyal friend of the engines!

EXCITING JOURNEY!

Dear Fat Controller,
On Sunday, my daddy took me for a long drive in the country. In one of the lanes we met an old traction engine pulling a caravan. We watched while the driver tried to get into a field. It took him a long while to get around the corner, and it was very exciting to watch!

Love from **Anthony**, aged 5.

You must have had a splendid time, Anthony! I do agree that traction engines are very interesting indeed to observe! Especially the more colourful ones!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

George Medland (28686), Neil David French (4431), Stuart Hall (8242), Emma Gilroy, Douglas Tunnock, Joseph Bolton, Jed Wragg (33114), Peter Cotton, Jo Katterfield, Christopher Pummel, Paul Matthews (26914), Joe Cason (32800), Nicholas Bone (332241), Thomas Roberts (33870), James Hitchcock, Christopher Hutchinson (32817), Melanie Joyce (33044), Richard Hitchcock (28706), Richard Whiting (34115), Bryan Laycock (33603), Jason O'Mara, Luke Holbrook, Matthew Peter Beadman (32878) and Michelle Sulnnett (23449).

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **nine weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our best.

Yours,

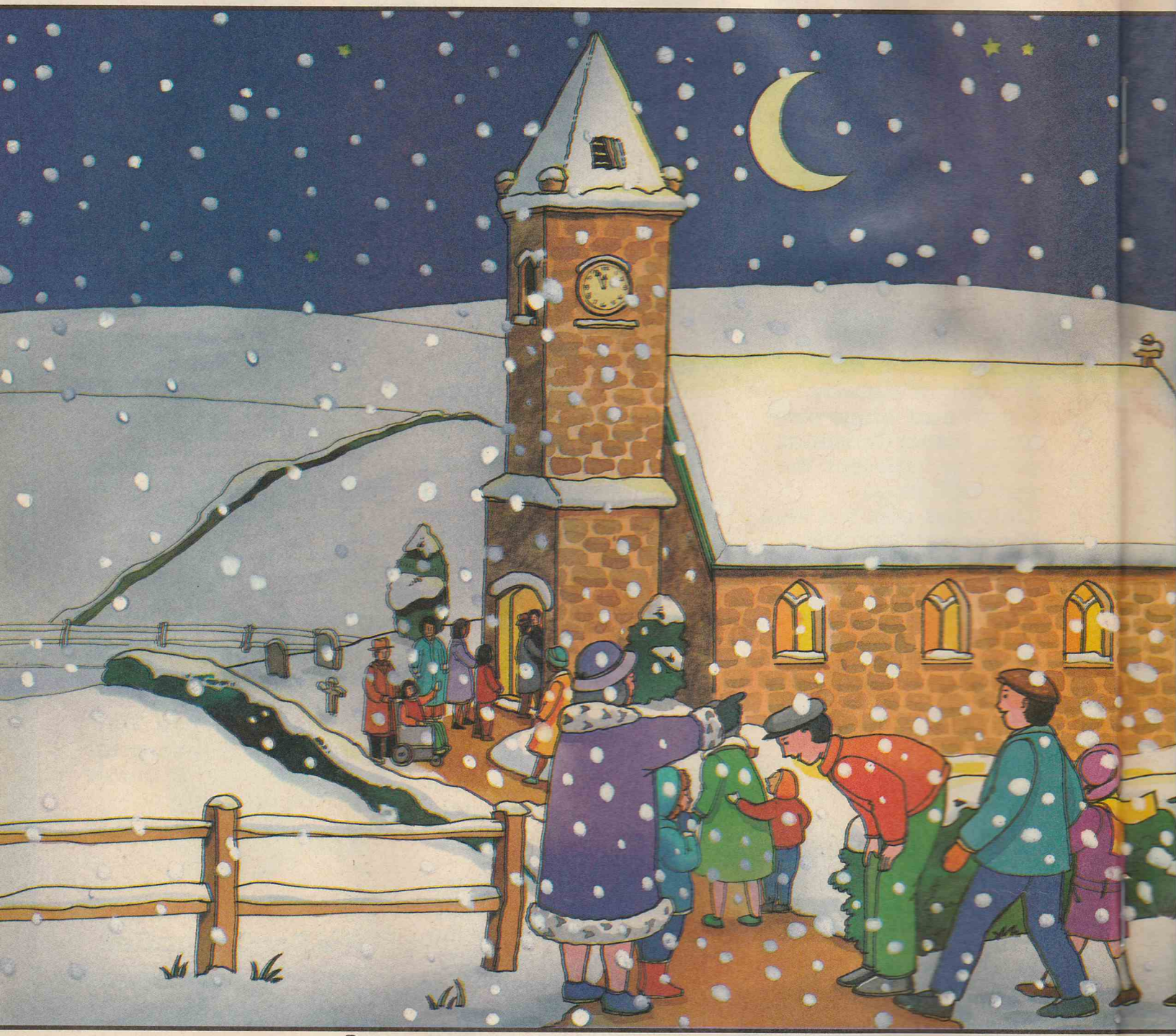
Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Heading fo



Which two engines can you see?

Point to the snowman!

What season do you think it is?

Where are the people going?

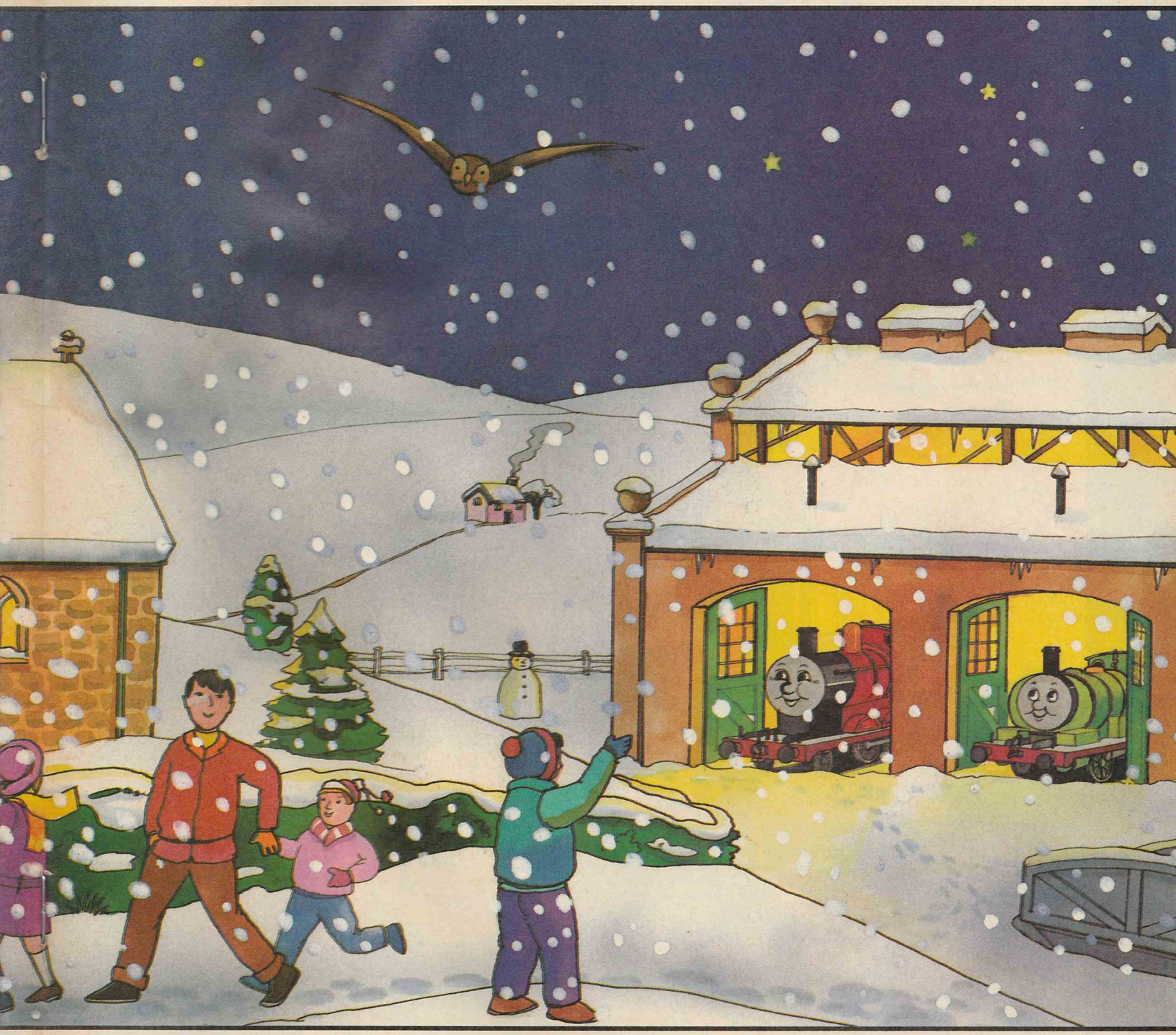
Can you see the cott

Point to the owl!

What time do you thi

How many fir trees c

or New Year!



e cottage?

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rees can you see?

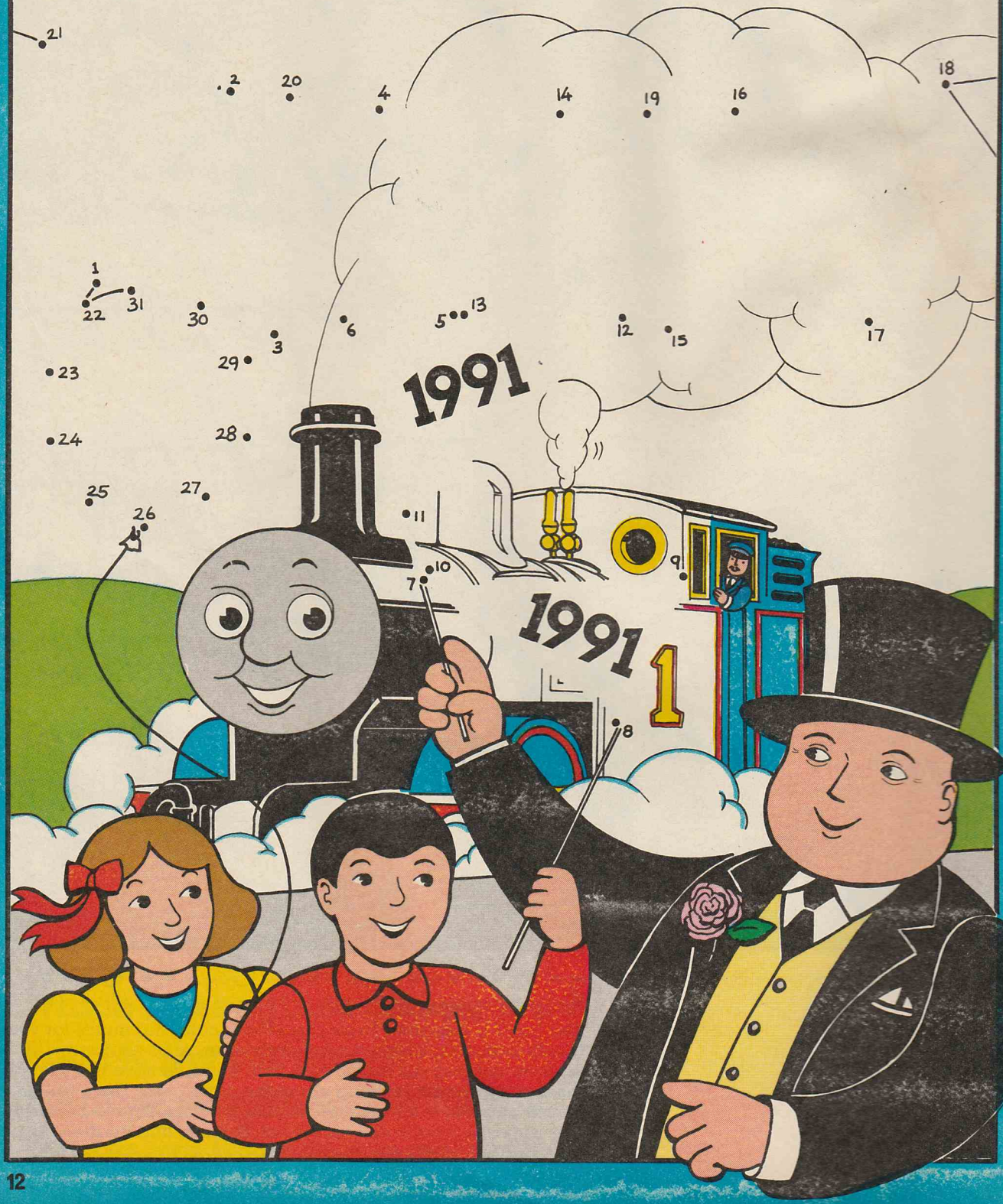
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Early to work!

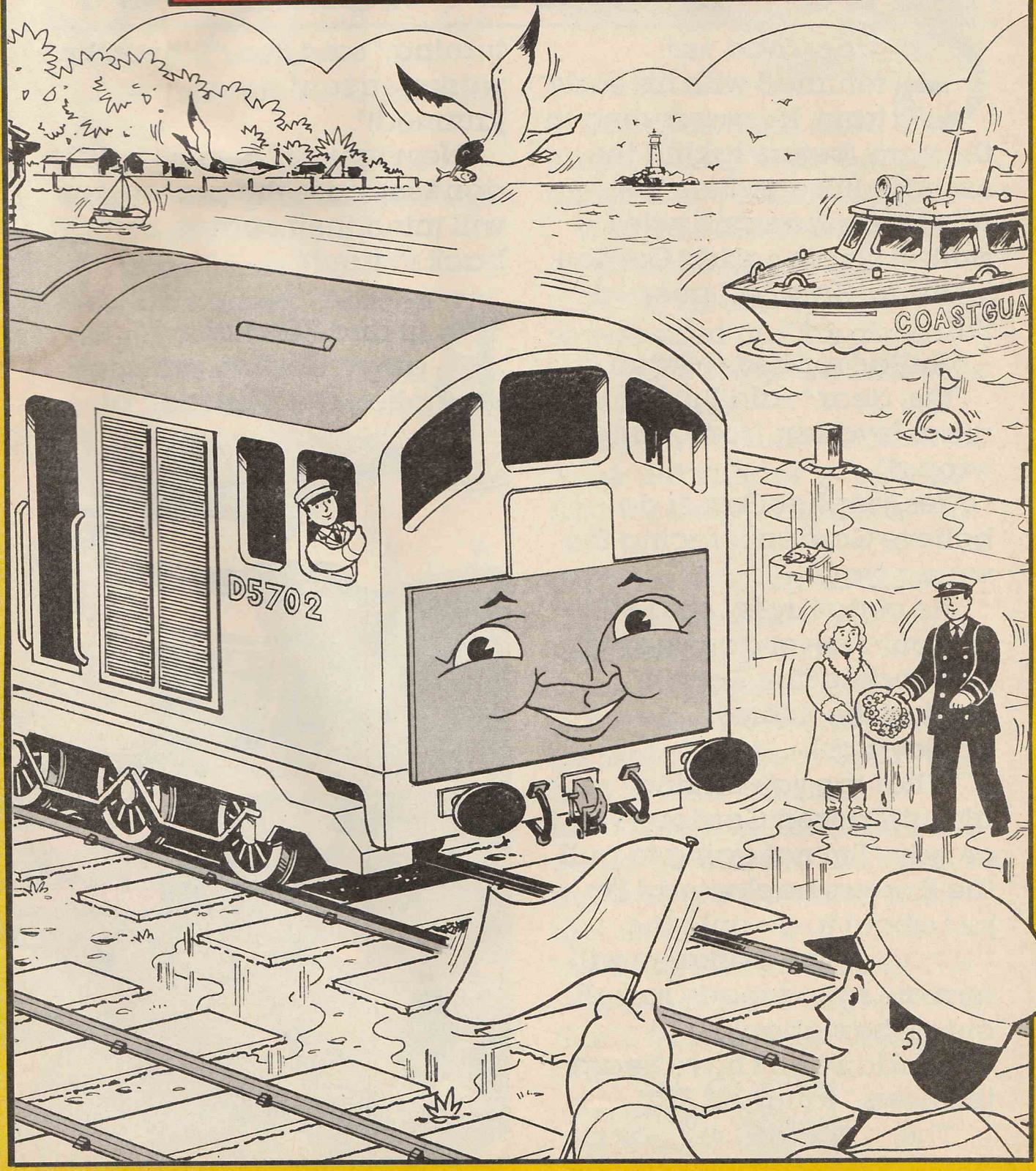
JOIN THE DOTS!

Join the dots – be full of good cheer,
Celebrate the brand new year!



COLOURING TIME!

Can you see Boco down by the sea?
Colour him in, as bright as can be!



A read-aloud story!

Gordon and the Turntable!

Gordon had just returned with his early train. He was resting in the yard, before taking the Express. Bill and Ben, the saddle tank engine twins, pulled up alongside Gordon.

"Hullo, Gordon," peeped Bill.

"Hullo," replied Gordon.

"Oh, dear," said Bill to Ben, mischievously, "something is wrong!"

"Yes," replied Ben, "I do believe Gordon is facing the wrong way."

"He certainly is," said Bill. "It would never do to have a fine engine like Gordon pulling the Express backwards!"

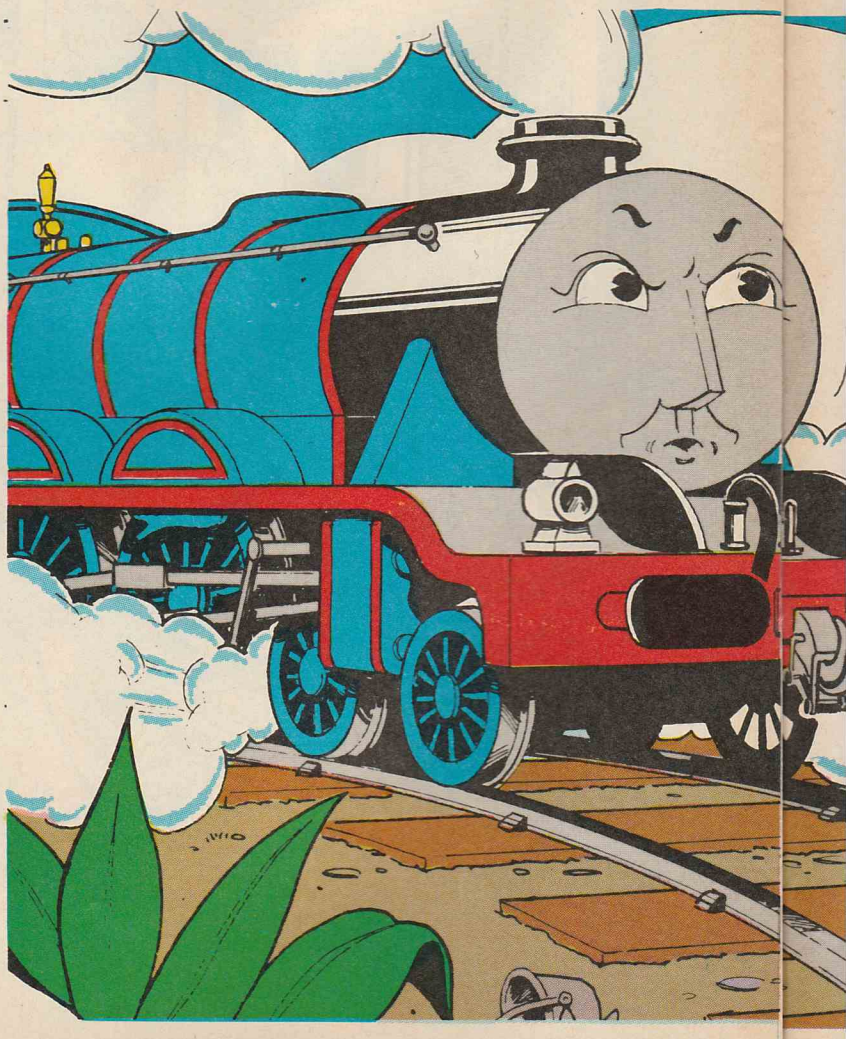
"What are you talking about?" asked Gordon, crossly. "I'm not going to pull the Express backwards! I'm just about to go onto the turntable. The workmen will turn me round ready to pull out of the station!"

"Gordon can't have heard the news," laughed Bill.

"The turntable isn't turning," said Ben. "I think the workmen said it was jammed!"

"Never mind," teased Bill. "I don't suppose the passengers will mind their engine being back to front!"

Bill and Ben rushed away. Gordon was most offended. The idea of



having to pull the Express backwards was unthinkable.

"Everyone would laugh," thought Gordon.

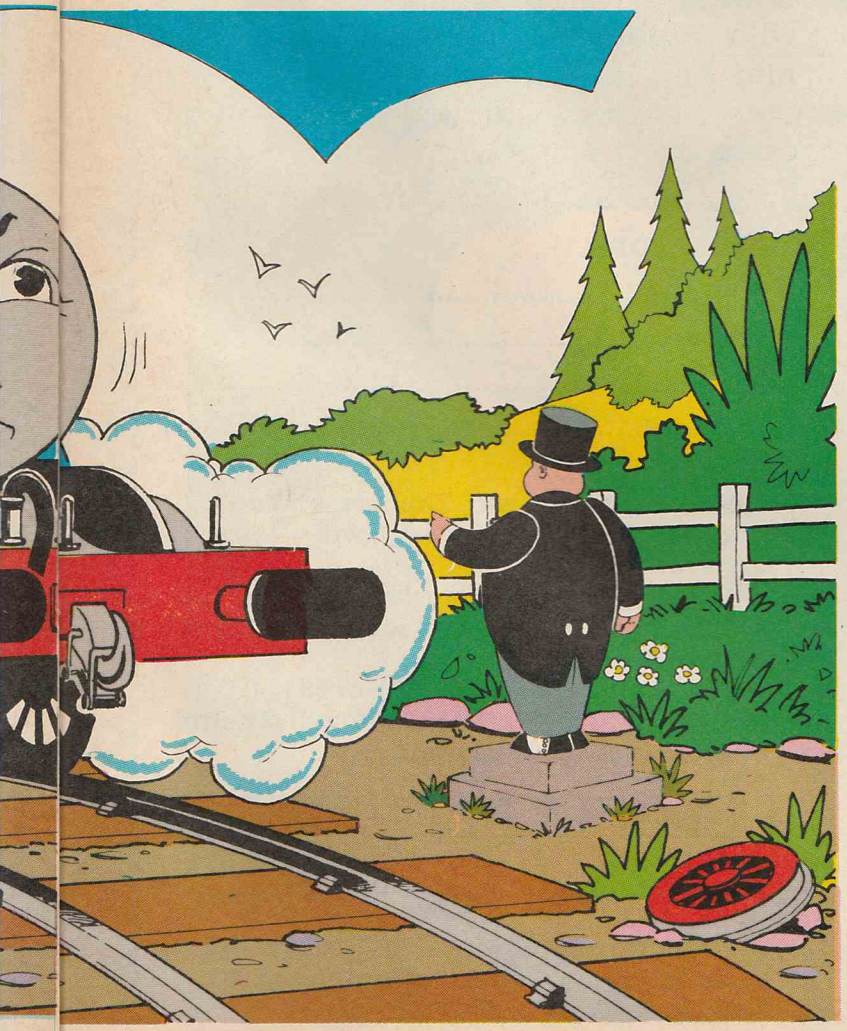
When Gordon's driver came to start him up, Gordon wouldn't move. The driver tried everything, but Gordon would not budge!

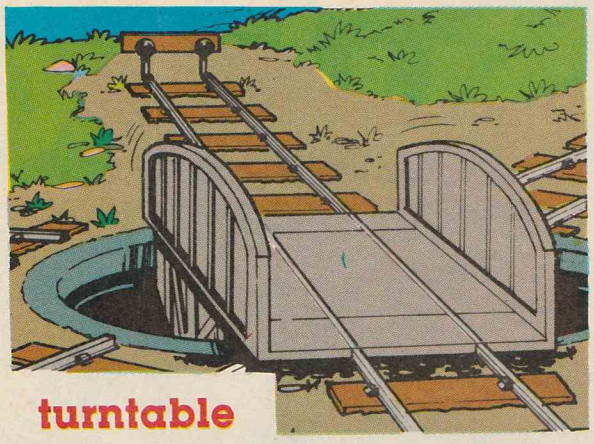
Just then, the Fat Controller arrived.

"What is the delay?" he asked. "The passengers must not be kept waiting!"

"I don't know," said Gordon's driver. "Gordon will not move!"

"First the turntable and now this!" said the Fat Controller.



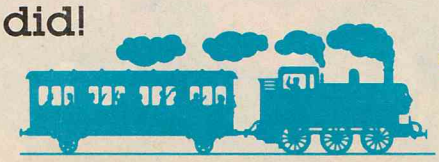


turntable

"The men have fixed the turntable, sir," said Gordon's driver. "It's working again!"

When Gordon heard the good news he started making steam. His driver was so surprised that he almost fell off the footplate. When he reached the turntable, the men turned Gordon around so he didn't have to pull the Express backwards after all!

That evening however, the men had started working on the turntable again. Some of its parts were worn and had to be replaced. Poor Gordon had to wait until the turntable was fixed until he could go back to the shed. By the time the workmen had mended the turntable, the morning sun was rising! The other engines thought it was much funnier than Gordon did!



THE END

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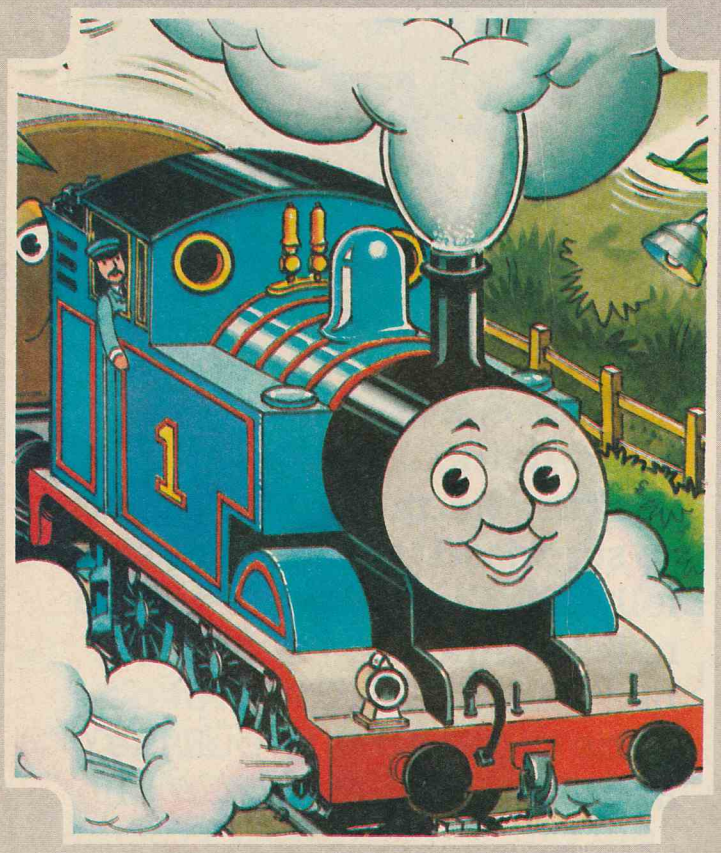

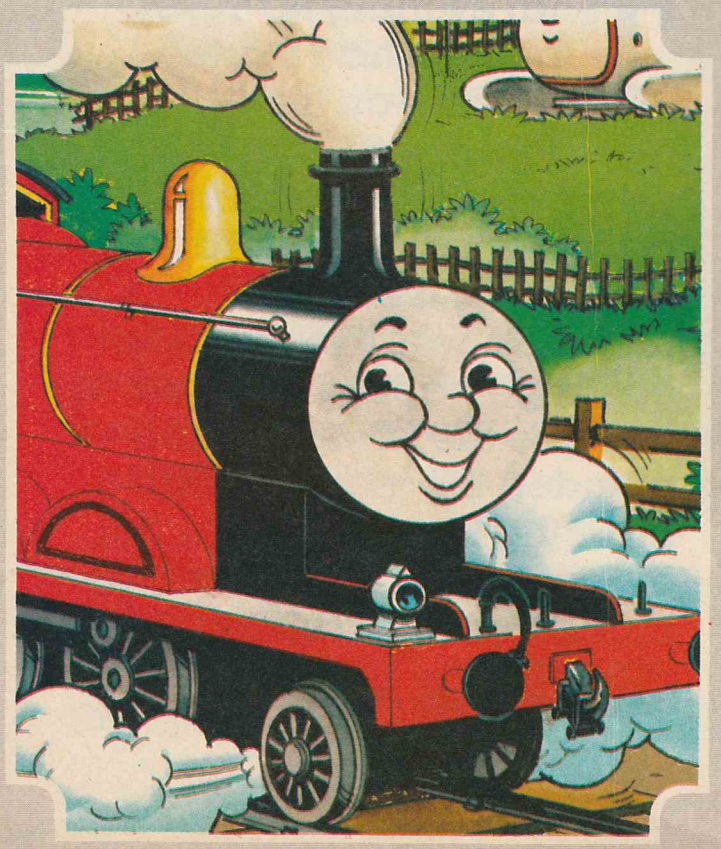

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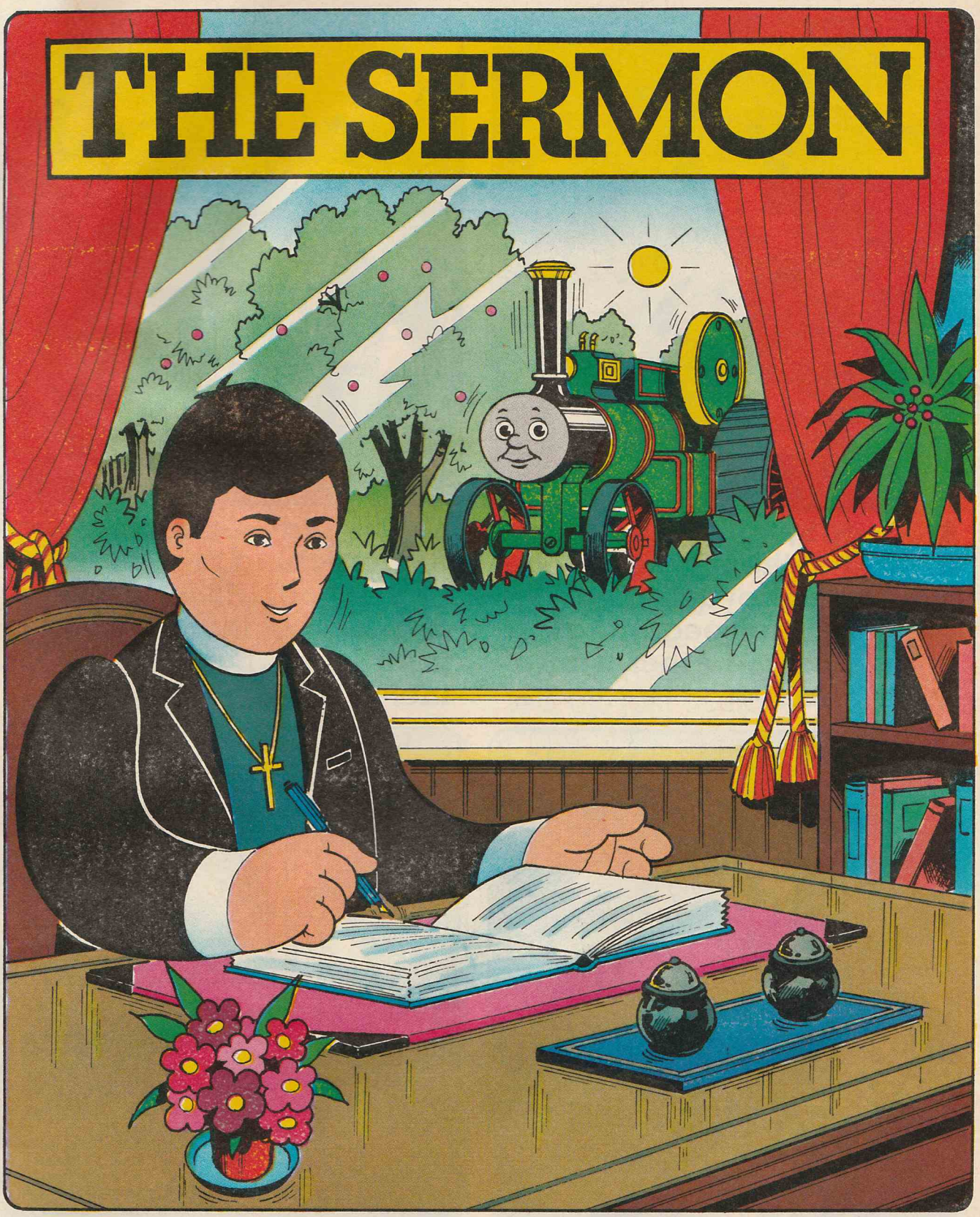
Signature ..... Expiry date .....

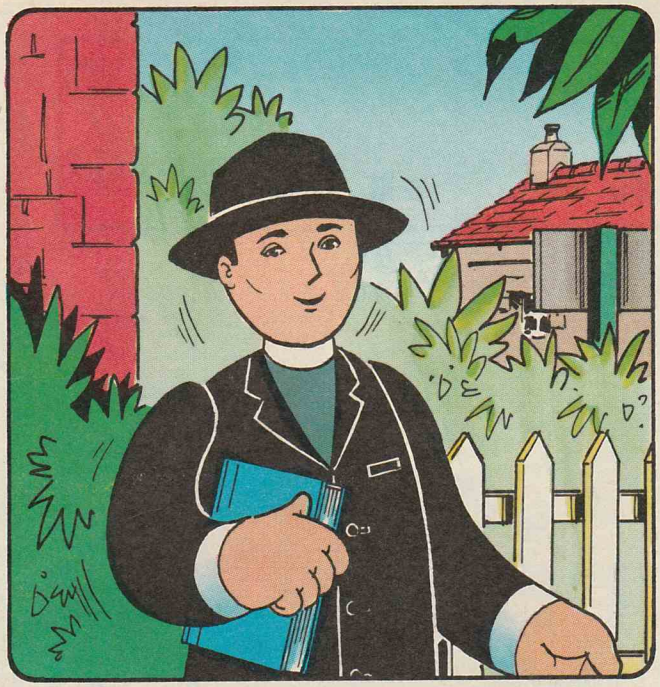
Return form and payment to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AB.*

A listen and look story!

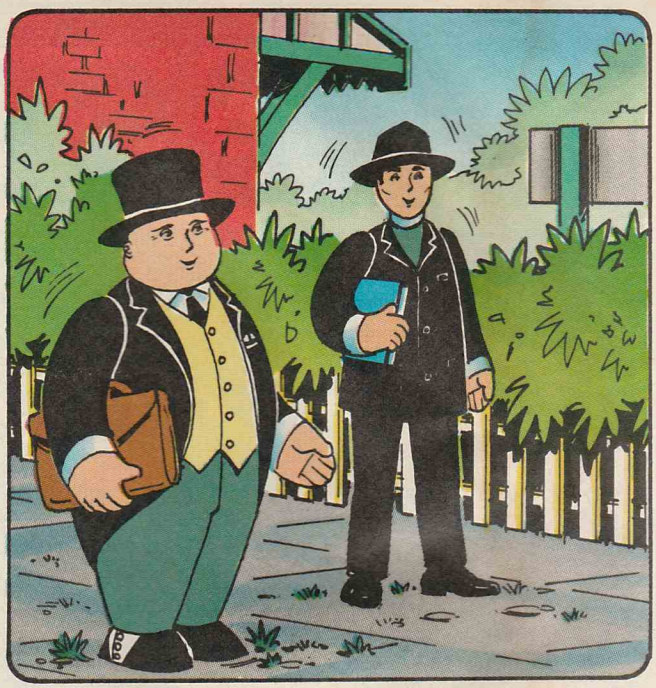


1. The Vicar is a very important person on the Island of Sodor. He is a friend to everyone, and always gives a cheery wave to the engines as they pass.

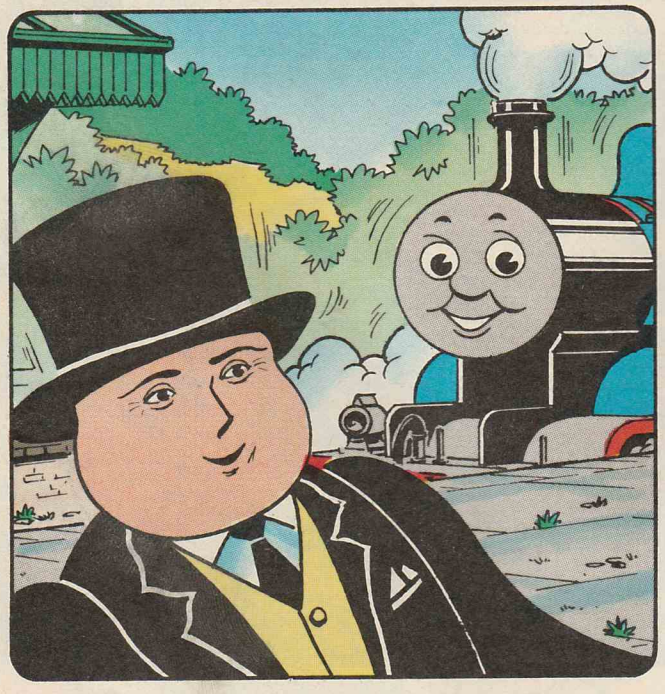
2. Each week, the Vicar spends time in his study, writing a sermon which he will read out in church the following Sunday. This is what he likes to do best.



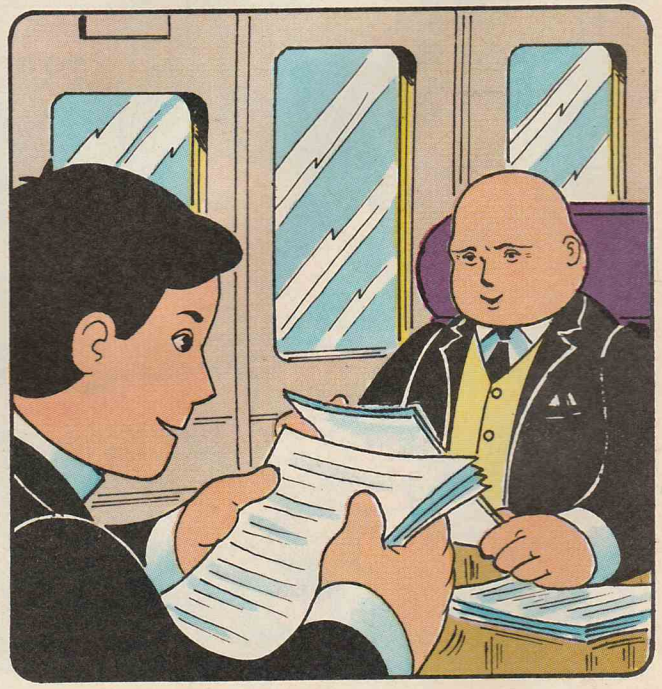
3. One Sunday, the Vicar arrived at the big station. He was going to deliver a sermon to the people at a church on the other side of the island.



4. The Fat Controller was also catching the same train as the Vicar. He was to make a speech at the town hall in front of many people, including the Mayor.

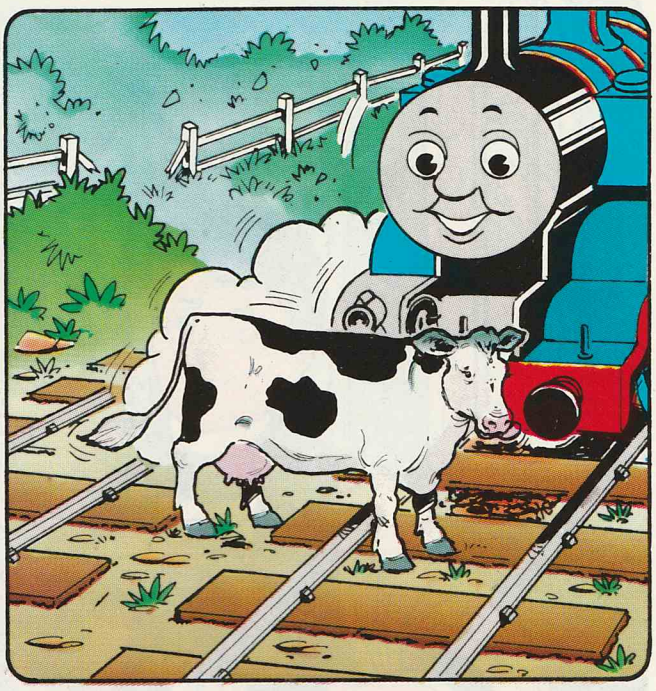


5. Thomas pulled up to the station platform, with his coaches, Annie and Clarabel. "You're right on time, Thomas," said the Fat Controller, most pleased.

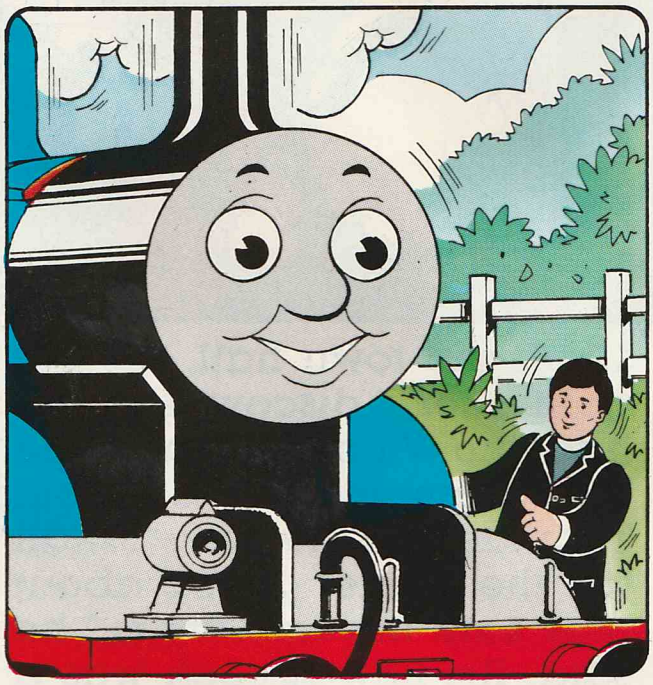


6. The Vicar and the Fat Controller sat together in Clarabel. The Vicar was studying his sermon, and the Fat Controller was checking over his speech.

7. Suddenly, Thomas stopped. The Vicar and the Fat Controller both dropped their papers. "Goodness me!" said the Fat Controller.

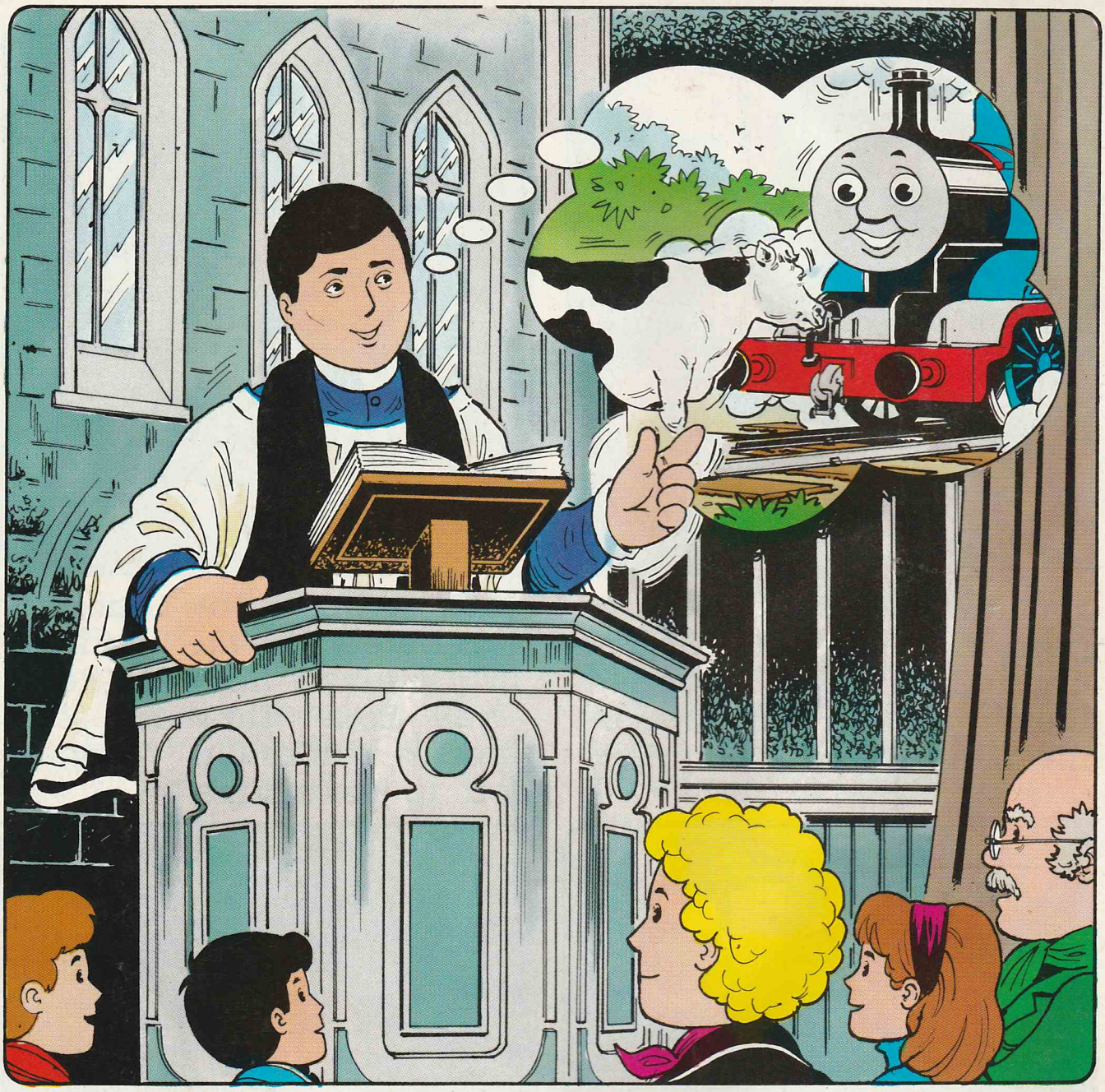


8. There was a cow that had wandered on the track. It had strayed from its field. "Well done, Thomas," said the Fat Controller. "You pulled up just in time."



9. Some of the passengers were cross that Thomas had stopped so quickly. The Vicar told Thomas's driver not to take any notice of them.

10. The Vicar and the Fat Controller went back to their seats. They picked up their papers. "I wouldn't know what to talk about without my sermon," said the Vicar.



11. When the Vicar arrived at the church, he stood in the pulpit. Then he realised that he had picked up the Fat Controller's speech instead! At first, he didn't know what he could preach about. Then he remembered about Thomas and the cow. "My sermon today is about showing kindness to animals," he told his congregation.

12. At the town hall, the Fat Controller discovered he had the Vicar's sermon. He too remembered about Thomas and the cow. "I shall tell the dinner guests about how safe the railway is," he said. His new speech was a big success. Later, the Vicar and the Fat Controller laughed about their mixed-up papers!

THE END

More fun on the line in our next issue!